

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 06883 112142Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 MCT-01 DHA-02

FBIE-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-01

/038 W

-----011629 112149Z /66

P 112047Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8347

CONFIDENTIAL CARACAS 6883

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS,US,VE

SUBJECT: NIEHOUSE CASE - ALLEGED CONTACT BETWEEN  
KIDNAPPERS AND NIEHOUSE FAMILY

1. ON JULY 7, "EL MUNDO", ONE OF CARACAS' MORE SENSATIONALIST AFTERNOON TABLOIDS, HEADLINED "NIEHOUSE KIDNAPPERS MAKE NEW CONTACT WITH NIEHOUS FAMILY IN U.S." ESSENCE OF STORY IS THAT NIEHOUSE IS ALIVE, BEING HELD IN CAMP IN EASTERN VENEZUELA AND THAT GROUP HOLDING NIEHOUS GAVE ASSURANCES THROUGH AN INTERMEDIARY TO NIEHOUS' FIRST COUSIN, ERNEST NIEHOUS IN BALTIMORE THAT NIEHOUS IS ALIVE AND WOULD BE RETURNED IF PAYMENT OF BS 15 MILLION WERE MADE TO THE KIDNAPPERS. ACCORDING TO STORY, ERNEST NIEHOUS (THE COUSIN) RECEIVED ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE CALL WITH THE RANSOM REQUEST. THE CALLER IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT THE BILLS SHOULD BE IN SMALL DENOMINATIONS AND DELIVERED IN A THIRD COUNTRY. STORY CONTINUES THAT CONTACT BELONGS TO OR, "ORGANIZACION REVOLUTIONARIA" AND THAT HE PROVIDED THE NIEHOUS COUSIN WITH A RECENT LETTER FROM NIEHOUS AND A PHOTOGRAPH TO DEMONSTRATE THAT NIEHOUS IS ALIVE.

2. LOCAL GOV AUTHORITIES TELL US PRIVATELY THEY HAVE NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM STORY.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO TELEPHONE LOCAL  
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OWENS-ILLINOIS REPRESENTATIVES IN VALENCIA, EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO GET THROUGH TO THEM (MANAGEMENT IS ON LEAVE) TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT STORY HAS HAD SOME LIMITED PLAY IN U.S. PRESS AND THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MRS. NIEHOUSE MAY HAVE BEEN INFORMED ABOUT IT. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT VERIFYING WITH OWENS-ILLINOIS HEADQUARTERS WHETHER STORY HAS ANY VERACITY.

VAKY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, KIDNAPPING  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009